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J. P. CRANWELL, author of "Fast and Fancy Cookery" (Double-day) sat in the two-stove kitchen of his restored Capitol Hill home, smoked a pipe and talked about his cooking.

"When I moved into an apartment in Washington in 1941, I had never boiled water," he said. "By then you could no longer invite girls to see your etchings. But you could always invite them to dinner."

"The first time I cooked a meal, it was delicious, but during the next six months I set the kitchen on fire and almost cut off my fingers."

No Problems Now

TODAY, however, Mr. Cranwell is expert enough to compose and kitchen-test a cook book full of recipes. And his present laboratory is a roomy, well-stocked kitchen, redecorated two and a half years ago with stoves in opposite corners.

"No more than one person can work at a stove at a time even if it has six burners," he explained. "So since I cook, my wife cooks and I have friends who come to cook, we put in a second stove." The kitchen also has a large pantry and a bar where guests can sit and chat with the chef.

Mr. Cranwell's cook book has 160 fancy dishes ranging from alligator tail soup to bananas senegalese. Of the latter the author writes: "A Swiss gentlewoman, married in Tangier to an American army officer, and now living in Dakar, sent me this recipe



—Staff Photo by Bill Beall

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J. P. CRANWELL

Etchings were an old story.

from darkest, or nearly darkest Africa, with the admonition that it should be made only to the deep beating of tom-toms and the high thin wall of conch-shell horn."

Kidneys With Sherry

ALTHO Mr. Cranwell had never tried a cook book before, he is no stranger to the publishing world. He has written five books on naval history and model ship building and is now delving into documents about the American-Indian wars.

"I have another cook book half written on breakfast, brunch and supper menus," he said. "We do most of our entertaining at brunch. We serve things like lamb kidneys and sherry, shrimp and hard-boiled eggs in sauce and pop-overs."

The guests are also treated to a tour of his elegantly restored home, boasting antique furniture, a rack with 160 pipes, a collection of old walking sticks and a dark-room where Mr. Cranwell is experimenting with color photography. H. A. C.